

The laws governing the operation of all-terrain vehicles, off-road motorcycles and all-terrain utility vehicles will be changing effective July 1, 2007. Changes are highlighted below.

#### NEW AGE RESTRICTIONS FOR ATV OPERATIONS-SUPERVISION REQUIRED

- A person under 12 years of age shall not operate an ATV, including an off-road motorcycle, on a designated riding area or designated riding trail or on ice unless one of the following applies:
  1. The person is taking a prescribed safety training course and operation is under the direct supervision of a certified ATV instructor.
  2. ATV and off-highway motorcycle riders under the age of 12 must be under the direct supervision of an adult possessing a valid drivers license. Direct supervision means maintaining visual and verbal contact at all times.
- ATV riders twelve through seventeen years of age must have a valid safety certificate before riding on any public land or ice.

#### NEW SOUND LEVELS AND TESTING PROCEEDURES

- ATVs and motorcycles may not exceed an engine noise limit above 96 decibels as tested under SAE 1287J.

#### REGISTRATION AND OPERATION OF OFF-ROAD UTILITY VEHICLES (ORVs)

- "Off=road utility vehicle" means a motorized flotation=tire vehicle with not less than four and not more than six low=pressure tires that is limited in engine displacement to less than one thousand five hundred cubic centimeters and in total dry weight to not more than one thousand eight hundred pounds and that has a seat that is of bench design, not intended to be straddled by the operator, and a steering wheel for control.

#### **Registration of ORVs**

- Off=road utility vehicles shall be considered all=terrain vehicles for the purpose of registration, but are exempt from the dealer registration requirements and the titling requirements of Iowa Code Chapter 321I.
- A motorized vehicle that was previously titled or is currently titled under chapter 321 shall not be registered or operated as an off=road utility vehicle.

#### **Where to Register**

- Residents: County recorder offices or any electronic license vendor where hunting and fishing license are sold (Effective August 15, 2007).
- Nonresidents: County recorder offices or any electronic license vendor where hunting and fishing license are sold (Effective August 15, 2007).

### **Exemptions to ORV Registration**

- ORVs owned and used by the United States, another state, or political subdivision of another state.
- ORVs being used for agricultural purposes. *ORVs that being operated under the provisions of 321.234A, by a licensed engineer, surveyor, utility or snowmobile club providing trail maintenance, are required to display a valid registration decal. This would include an ORV that is being operated for recreational purposes in right-of-way area adjacent to the owners property line under 321.234A, subsection 3.*

### **Registration Decals and Certificates**

- The decal shall be affixed on the rear of the machine so that the decal is clearly visible.
- Registration certificates shall be carried either in the ORV or on the person operating the machine.

### **Transfer**

- ORV registrations are not transferable. In order to maintain a valid registration, the purchaser of a registered ORV must obtain a new registration.

### **Operational Requirements**

- An operator of an off=road utility vehicle is subject to provisions governing the operation of all=terrain vehicles in Iowa Code Chapters 321.234A and 321I, but is exempt from the safety instruction and certification program requirements of sections 321I.25 and 321I.26.
- A person shall not operate an ORV on a designated riding area or designated riding trail unless the riding area or designated riding trail is signed by the Department as open to ORV operation.

### **INCREASED PENALTIES – REPEAT OFFENDER SYSTEM**

- Effective July 1, 2007, penalties for illegal operation of all-terrain vehicles, off-road motorcycles and off-road utility vehicles will be increasing to levels of surrounding states.
- For registration violations, when the scheduled fine is paid you must submit proof to the Department that a valid registration or user permit has been obtained by providing a copy of the registration or user permit to the Department within thirty days of the date the fine is paid. Failure to comply with this provision will result in a citation being issued that requires a mandatory court appearance and a possible fine of up to \$500 plus court costs.
- The Department is establishing a repeat offender record keeping system and administrative process, similar to the system used to track repeat violators of fish and game statues. This allows the court or the Department to suspend privileges and provide sanctions administratively.